

It has become clear that the House Republicans' so-called "plan" to create jobs was just empty rhetoric, a hollow promise to the American people. If House Republicans were serious about creating jobs, they would vote on the updated Van Hollen substitute—a real plan to replace the sequester with a sensible, balanced approach to deficit reduction that puts job creation first.

IN MEMORY OF ALMERINDO "AL"  
CARVALHEIRA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the passing of Almerindo "Al" Carvalho, a Vietnam veteran who lived an extraordinary life of service to his country and to his fellow veterans. Al succumbed to cancer on January 21, 2013, at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Northport, New York.

Al was born on October 21, 1947, in Portugal. His family immigrated to the United States when he was 10 years old and settled in Nesconset, New York. Al proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Vietnam War and received numerous awards and decorations, including two Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Air Medal.

Honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant in December of 1969, Al returned to his home on Long Island where he pursued a career in nursing and was hired by the Northport VA Medical Center in 1977. There he dedicated himself to the care and treatment of his fellow veterans as a VA registered nurse and nurse leader for nearly four decades.

Al was known as a highly effective and empathetic caregiver who was never too busy to spend time with his patients, especially the most challenging among them. His own experience gave him a unique understanding of what his patients had endured in combat. In discussions with them, he often cited his favorite book, "The Things They Carried," written by fellow Vietnam veteran Tim O'Brien.

Soon after the start of his career at the VA medical center, Al was promoted to nurse manager, which gave him the supervision of all inpatient psychiatric units and the outpatient treatment program. In addition to these significant responsibilities, Al trained and developed staff in crisis intervention and implemented a crisis response team for the safety of VA patients and staff. In order to provide veterans the best care possible, Al found the time to earn a master's degree in nursing from Stony Brook University.

Dear to Al's heart was the Suffolk County, New York, chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, to which he devoted 38 years of service, working day in and day out taking care of "his boys," advocating for the needs of all

veterans and raising awareness of the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's veterans and their families.

In May of 2009, I had the great pleasure of working with Al and his friends and fellow Vietnam veterans Richie Kitson and Clarence Simpson to rename the Riverhead, New York, Post Office in honor of Suffolk County's only Vietnam War Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, PFC Garfield M. Langhorn.

That same year, Al took the lead in the construction and dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Garden on the grounds of the Northport VA Medical Center, which recognizes and honors the sacrifices of our Nation's servicemen and -women. The memorial garden's dedication ceremony was held in October 2010 and was attended by more than 300 people.

In 2011, Al and members of the VVA were inspired by Dignity Memorial's replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall to expand the Northport VA Medical Center's Vietnam Veterans Memorial Garden for the inclusion of a permanent war memorial known as The Wall of Wars.

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It was during this time that Al was diagnosed with cancer. Although Al will not be present at the VA's Veterans Day dedication of the The Wall of Wars, his legacy as a war hero, a VA nurse, and a veterans advocate is and will be forever present on the grounds of the Northport VA Medical Center and throughout Suffolk County's veteran community.

On January 25, 2013, Vietnam veteran and U.S. Army Sergeant Al Carvalho was laid to rest with military honors at Long Island's Calverton National Cemetery. Al is survived by his beloved wife of 40 years, Geraldine, and their two sons, Almerindo and John, as well as six grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of New York's First Congressional District and a grateful Nation, it is my honor and privilege to recognize Almerindo "Al" Carvalho for his distinguished service and many contributions to our Nation and his fellow veterans. He will always be remembered with our love and appreciation.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, recently research has shown that fish populations are not waiting for climate change to make their habitat impossible for them to live. They're moving. That's right: fish all over the globe are migrating to cooler climates.

In a process that's been taking place for decades now, fish are sorting themselves out and leaving areas that no longer sustain their quality of life,

their ability to reproduce and to thrive. They've steadily been moving to areas where the effects of climate change are not so pronounced.

Isn't it interesting that fish, without fancy scientific instrumentation or computer analysis, have reacted to the facts in the sea and moved where they can function, where they can live and where they can, at least for the time being, escape the impacts of climate change?

They're also escaping from people who depend on them in their previous habitat to fish, but that's another story on the consequences of climate change and global warming.

Isn't it time that the political process starts responding in ways that even fish can? One would hope. But, instead, today on the floor of the House, we're going to return to debate the Keystone pipeline that would carry oil extracted from Canada's tar sands to the U.S. gulf and short circuit Presidential review.

Given the potential negative environmental impacts, the repeated efforts by some to rush the environmental and public safety review process, the overwhelming number of comments and concerns received from the public and the recent news about the atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide that have reached 400 parts per million, an amount not seen in at least 3 million years, I'm concerned that this sideshow over the Keystone pipeline will make our climate problem worse, rather than better, and poison the ability to make progress in the future.

The simple fact is that this pipeline would facilitate the exploitation of one of the dirtiest sources of energy—tar sands oil—that poses public, safety, and health risks.

In addition to possible worsening of the effects of global climate change, there are serious questions that remain about pipeline safety, spill prevention, and protecting the public from potential health impacts in the wake of the spills that are inevitable.

Tar sand developers are amazingly exempt from paying into the oil spill liability trust fund, making American taxpayers liable for the cost of any spills from the Canadian tar sands oil. This places, I think, an unacceptable and unnecessary risk on American taxpayers, one that we can ill afford to assume today.

This will be the seventh time that we voted and that I will vote against proposals to streamline the building of the Keystone pipeline as some Members of the House continually and repeatedly attempt to circumvent the legislative process and rush its proposal.

The only positive of this project is creating several thousand temporary construction jobs and a few dozen permanent jobs. That's no reason to short circuit the review required by law.

The potential environmental harm done by the pipeline—both from the threat of oil spills to the precious aquifer that it will be passing over and because tar sands emit three times more